



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Programmatic Environmental Assessment Considers SRS As Potential Storage Site for Uranium

The Department of Energy - Oak Ridge (DOE-OR) has prepared a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) to implement a comprehensive management program to safely, efficiently, and effectively store its potentially reusable low enriched uranium, normal uranium, and depleted uranium. DOE currently has about 33,200 metric tons of potentially reusable uranium materials in 133 locations in the United States. This PEA would evaluate the storage of these materials in either one centralized site or several consolidated sites based on the proximity of the present storage locations and uranium product forms. Storage of these materials would occur until future sale or reuse alternatives are ready for decision making. SRS is being evaluated as one of several alternative storage sites under consideration. SRS currently has an inventory of approximately 2,500 metric tons of potentially reusable uranium materials onsite. The proposed action addressed in this PEA encompasses both transportation and long-term storage issues.

The public comment period for this draft PEA will close on June 21, 2002. A public meeting will be

held in Piketon, Ohio the evening of June 4 and a video conference for the Paducah Citizens Advisory Board is scheduled for June 6. The document is available electronically at <http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/Foia/NEW.htm>. Requests for copies of DOE/EA-1393 can be sent to:

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Comments regarding the draft PEA can be sent to:

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Beryllium Research Symposium:

Basic Mechanisms and Human Health

Workshop Calls for New Approaches

The U.S. Department of Energy invites scientists from all disciplines to an open workshop that will explore Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD), a very serious occupational lung disease.

It will be held June 25 - 26, 2002 at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD. There is no registration fee. For more information visit the Oak Ridge website at <http://www.ornl.gov/meetings/beryllium/index.html>

Public Comment Invited on SRS Draft Environmental Management Program Performance Management Plan

The Department of Energy (DOE) invites the public to learn about the draft *Savannah River Site (SRS) Environmental Management Program Performance Management Plan (PMP)* and to provide comments. DOE is moving to an accelerated, risk-based cleanup strategy in an effort to improve the Environmental Management Program and expedite risk reduction at SRS and other DOE sites. A proposed Cleanup Reform Appropriation could provide additional funds to sites that can demonstrate accelerated risk reduction through innovative approaches.

SRS has incorporated its cleanup reform initiatives into the newly developed PMP. This plan outlines the approach that will be taken to achieve accelerated cleanup, specific roles and responsibilities for all parties involved, and establishes discrete project plans with clear milestones and deliverables to enable success. SRS is seeking stakeholder input on the draft PMP and encourages participation in a series of meetings planned to provide detailed information on the plan. The public is invited to attend any or all of the DOE workshops and Citizen Advisory Board Committee meetings listed in this publication.

Public comments are needed by July 15, 2002, for consideration in the final version of the plan. A copy of the draft plan can be obtained at <http://sro.srs.gov/pubact1.htm> or by calling 1-800-249-8155.

Stakeholder Forum on Alternative Technologies to Incineration

DOE seeks to improve stakeholder involvement in its efforts to develop and evaluate alternative technologies to incineration for mixed transuranic and mixed low level waste. To encourage broad, diverse stakeholder participation, DOE is hosting the Stakeholder Forum on Alternative Technologies to Incineration, June 7–8, 2002, in Denver, Colorado.

The Forum will be held on June 7–8, 2002 at the Denver Airport Marriott, 6900 Tower Road, Denver, CO 80249. Phone: 303-371-0300 or 800-321-2211. For more information on the background of the Forum please visit <http://tmfa.inel.gov/ati/>. Registration materials and a draft meeting agenda are available on the following website <http://www.getf.org/ati/>. For further information, contact, Ms. Noeleen Tillman, Global Environment and Technology Foundation, 7010 Little River Turnpike, Suite # 460, Annandale, VA 22003; e-mail ntillman@getf.org; telephone (760) 434-4662.

The objectives of the Forum include:

- Facilitating an exchange of information among technical experts, regulators, and stakeholders.

DOE PMP Workshops

June 10, 2002 1-4 PM
Sheraton Augusta Hotel
2651 Perimeter Pkwy
Augusta, GA

June 26, 2002 5 - 7 PM
Adam's Mark Hotel
1200 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC

July 8, 2002 5 - 7 PM
Coastal Georgia Center
305 Fahm Street
Savannah, GA

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Committee Meetings

These PMP meetings are scheduled at the
North Augusta Community Center
101 Brookside Ave
North Augusta, SC

Strategic & Long Term Issues Committee
June 11, 2002 6-9 PM

Nuclear Materials/Waste Management Joint Committee
June 18, 2002 1 - 5 PM

Environmental Restoration Committee
June 20, 2002 6 - 9 PM

- Identifying stakeholder values and concerns that the Department should consider in its technology development and evaluation process.

Topics for discussion at the Stakeholder Forum include:

- The Department of Energy's plans for developing alternative technologies to incineration.
- The current state of alternative technology development.
- Factors to be considered in determining the acceptability of new technologies.
- Stakeholder views regarding the benefits and drawbacks of various alternative technologies.
- Involvement in new technology development and evaluation.
- Federal and State regulatory processes, including permitting.

Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

• ***Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain (DOE/EIS-0250)*** This environmental impact statement (EIS) assesses the potential environmental impacts from construction, operation, and closure of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed geologic repository for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. The draft EIS was released August 1999. A Supplemental EIS was distributed in May 2001 to address a new engineering design. The final EIS was issued in February 2002. It is available at www.ymmp.gov. The Record of Decision date is uncertain. The final EIS and Site Recommendation Report were presented to the President in February 2002. The President subsequently recommended to the Congress that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for a repository. This EIS is complete and updates will not appear here in the future.

• ***SRS High Level Waste Tank (HLW) Closure (DOE/EIS-0303)*** The proposed action is to close the SRS HLW Tanks in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, DOE Orders and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control permit requirements. The draft EIS was released in November 2000. Public meetings were held in January 2001. The Final EIS was distributed on May 24, 2002. Copies of the EIS are available by contacting Andrew R. Grainger at 1-800-881-7292 or email: nepa@srs.gov.

• ***Disposition of Metals That May Contain Residual Radioactivity (DOE/EIS-0327)*** This programmatic EIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of scrap metals from DOE sites that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The Notice of Intent for this programmatic EIS was issued on July 12. Public meetings were held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, SC. The draft EIS is scheduled to be available in September 2002.

• ***Removal, Transportation and Storage of Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generators (RTG) (DOE/EA-1351)*** This programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) is

being developed jointly by DOE and the U. S. Air Force. It addresses: (1) the removal and transportation of 10 Strontium-90 RTGs from Burnt Mountain Seismic Array Laboratory in Alaska to a DOE site or an Air Force facility; and (2) long-term storage of the 10 identified plus about 50 other RTGs. The PEA is on hold while an EM-1 policy review of Greater than Class C waste is being conducted.

• ***Implementation of a Comprehensive Management Program for the Storage, Transportation, and Disposition of Potentially Reusable Uranium Materials (DOE/EA-1393)*** DOE-Oak Ridge is preparing a PEA to implement a comprehensive management program to safely, efficiently, and effectively store its potentially reusable low enriched uranium, normal uranium, and depleted uranium. The comprehensive management program addressed in this PEA looks at transportation, including preparation of uranium materials for safe shipment, long-term storage, and maintenance. The draft PEA is now available and may be obtained at DOE-SR or DOE-OR. The public comment period ends June 21, 2002. The document is also available electronically at <http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/Foia/NEW/htm>. The DOE-OR decision to either issue a FONSI or notice of intent to prepare an EIS is projected for third quarter of 2002. (See related article page 1)

• ***Natural Resources Management Activities at SRS (DOE/EA-0826)*** DOE-SR prepared an EA in 1993 to analyze the potential environmental impacts of continued management of SRS natural resources. Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE-SR determined the proposed action was not a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In 2000, DOE-SR issued a revised FONSI that determined implementation of a revised red-cockaded woodpecker Management Plan would have impacts no greater than those described in the 1993 EA. DOE-SR now proposes a second revised FONSI which will address minor differences between the 1991 and 2002 SRS Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The NEPA review is on hold until the 2002 NRMP is finalized.

F-Canyon Suspension Activities Underway at SRS

F Canyon is located in F Area, one of two chemical separations areas at SRS. Historically, F Canyon operations recovered plutonium-239 (Pu-239) and uranium 238 (U-238) by a chemical separation process. Stabilization activities of remaining legacy material scheduled for F Canyon were completed in March 2002.

Currently, suspension activities are under way, including flushing of canyon vessels and piping, decontaminating depleted uranium and solvent for future shipments out of F Canyon, pending a final decision on facility's utilization. A briefing on these activities was presented to the Nuclear Materials Committee of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board at the May 20, 2002 meeting. Copies of the presentation are available by contacting Jim Moore at 1-800-881-7292 or email: nepa@srs.gov.

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The SRS

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